

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SAIM SARWAR, Individually, :
Plaintiffs, :
v. : Case No. 3:21-cv-01101 (TJM/ATB)
SHREE HARI HOLDINGS LLC, A New York :
Corporation, :
Defendant. :
/ :

COMPLAINT
(Injunctive Relief Demanded)

Plaintiff, SAIM SARWAR, Individually, on his behalf and on behalf of all other individuals similarly situated, (sometimes referred to as “Plaintiff”), hereby sues the Defendant, SHREE HARI HOLDINGS LLC, A New York Corporation, (sometimes referred to as “Defendant”), for Injunctive Relief, and attorney’s fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq. (“ADA”).

1. Plaintiff is a resident of Brooklyn, New York, is sui juris, and qualifies as an individual with disabilities as defined by the ADA. Plaintiff is unable to engage in the major life activity of walking more than a few steps without assistive devices. Plaintiff ambulates in a wheelchair or with a cane or other support and has limited use of his hands. He is unable to tightly grasp, pinch and twist of the wrist to operate. When ambulating beyond the comfort of his own home, Plaintiff often uses a wheelchair or other assistive device. Plaintiff requires accessible handicap parking spaces located closest to the entrances of a facility. The handicap and access aisles must be of sufficient width so that he can embark and disembark from a ramp into

a vehicle. Routes connecting the handicap spaces and all features, goods and services of a facility must be level, properly sloped, sufficiently wide and without cracks, holes or other hazards that can pose a danger of tipping, catching wheels or falling. These areas must be free of obstructions or unsecured carpeting that make passage either more difficult or impossible. Amenities must be sufficiently lowered so that Plaintiff can reach them. He has difficulty operating door knobs, sink faucets, or other operating mechanisms that require tight grasping, twisting of the wrist or pinching. He is hesitant to use sinks that have unwrapped pipes, as such pose a danger of scraping or burning his legs. Sinks must be at the proper height so that he can put his legs underneath to wash his hands. He requires grab bars both behind and beside a commode so that he can safely transfer and he has difficulty reaching the flush control if it is on the wrong side. He has difficulty getting through doorways if they lack the proper clearance.

2. Defendant owns, leases, leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104. The place of public accommodation that the Defendant owns, operates, leases or leases to is known as Comfort Inn, 1000 Upper Front St Binghamton, NY 13905, and is located in the County of Broome.
3. Venue is properly located in the NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK because venue lies in the judicial district of the property situs. The Defendant's property is located in and does business within this judicial district.

4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendant's violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq. See also 28 U.S.C. § 2201 and § 2202.
5. As the owner, lessor, lessee, or operator of the subject premises, Defendant is required to comply with the ADA. To the extent the property, or portions thereof, existed prior to January 26, 1993 ("pre-existing facility"), the owner, lessor, lessee, or operator has been under a continuing obligation to remove architectural barriers at that property whose removal was readily achievable, as required by 42 U.S.C. Section 12182. To the extent that the property, or portions thereof, were constructed prior to January 26, 1993 ("newly constructed facility"), the owner, lessor, lessee, or operator was under an obligation to design and construct such facilities such that they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, as required by 42 U.S.C. Section 12183. To the extent that the facility, or portions thereof, were altered in a manner that affects or could affect its usability ("altered facility"), the owner, lessor, lessee, or operator was under an obligation to make such alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the altered portions are readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.
6. Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. part 36.404, all newly constructed facilities were required to comply with the Standards For New Construction And Alterations, set forth in Appendix A to 28 C.F.R. part 36 ("ADAAG"). Pursuant to 28 C .F.R. part 36.404, all altered facilities were required to comply with the ADAAG to the maximum

extent feasible. Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. part 36.304, all measures taken to comply with barrier removal requirements of 42 U.S.C. Section 12182 must also comply with the ADAAG to the maximum extent feasible. Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes a violation of the ADA.

7. From the end of August through early September, 2021, Plaintiff traveled all through New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland and the District of Columbia. He visited various hotels during his journey for the purpose of staying in them overnight. This included the Defendant's hotel. However, Plaintiff was deprived full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations of the hotel, in violation of 42 U.S.C. Section 12182(a), as a result of the Defendant's failure to comply with the applicable standards promulgated by the Department of Justice pursuant to the ADA. These violations include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Defendant fails to adhere to a policy, practice and procedure to ensure that all goods, services and facilities are readily accessible to and usable by the disabled.
 - ii. Defendant fails to maintain its features to ensure that they are readily accessible and usable by the disabled.
 - iii. There is an insufficient number of compliant accessible guest rooms, with inaccessible commodes, lack of compliant grab bars, missing grab bars, shower head too high, lack of compliant tubs/roll in showers, insufficient maneuvering

space, lack of required clear floor spaces, non-compliant doorways, insufficient door clearance, insufficient latch side clearance.

8. Plaintiff has visited the property which forms the basis of this lawsuit and plans to return to the property to avail himself of the goods and services offered to the public at the property, and to determine whether the property has been made ADA compliant. The Plaintiff has encountered barriers at the subject property which discriminate against him on the basis of his disability.
9. In the alternative, Plaintiff is an advocate of the rights of similarly situated disabled persons and is a "tester" for the purpose of asserting his civil rights and monitoring, ensuring, and determining whether places of public accommodation are in compliance with the ADA.
10. The violations present at Defendant's facility, create a hazard to Plaintiff's safety.
11. Plaintiff intends to retrace his trip again in August-September 2022, will travel near the area of Defendant's hotel and will need hotels to stay in during his journey. However, Plaintiff is continuously aware of the violations at Defendant's facility and is aware that it would be a futile gesture to return to the property as long as those violations exist unless he is willing to suffer additional discrimination.
12. The violations present at Defendant's facility infringe Plaintiff's right to travel free of discrimination. Plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer, frustration and humiliation as the result of the discriminatory conditions present at Defendant's facility. By continuing to operate a place of public accommodation with discriminatory conditions, Defendant contributes to Plaintiff's sense of isolation and

segregation and deprives Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges and/or accommodations available to the general public. By encountering the discriminatory conditions at Defendant's facility, and knowing that it would be a futile gesture to return unless he is willing to endure additional discrimination, Plaintiff is deprived of the meaningful choice of freely visiting the same accommodations readily available to the general public and is deterred and discouraged from additional travel. By maintaining a public accommodation with violations, Defendant deprives plaintiff the equality of opportunity offered to the general public.

13. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer direct and indirect injury as a result of the Defendant's discrimination until the Defendant is compelled to comply with the requirements of the ADA.
14. Plaintiff has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to this property as described but not necessarily limited to the violations identified in this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by the Defendant. Plaintiff desires to visit the property not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the property but to assure himself that this property is in compliance with the ADA so that he and others similarly situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.

15. The Defendant has discriminated against the Plaintiff by denying him access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the subject property, as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 12182 et seq.
16. The discriminatory violations described above are not an exclusive list of the Defendant's ADA violations. Plaintiff requires the inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. The Plaintiff, and all other individuals similarly situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendant's buildings and its facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendant because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above. The Plaintiff and all others similarly situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
17. Defendant has discriminated against the Plaintiff by denying him access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq. and 28 CFR 36.302 et seq. Furthermore, the Defendant continues to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly

situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

18. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendant pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
19. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to alter the property to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other persons with disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendant cures its violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that the Defendant at the commencement of the subject lawsuit is in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 et seq..
- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendant including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and

usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require the Defendant to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- c. An award of attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205.
- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Tristan W. Gillespie
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